

# WESTWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of March 8, 2010

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:05 P.M.

Present: Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Chair Sherman Taylor, Board Members Janine Borgersen, John Bonkowski, Michael Griffin, Joan Hluchan, Don Smith, Director Gary Buchheister, Admin. Asst. Margaret McDonough

Absent: Vice Chair Heidi Catalano, Member Chris Codner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 8, 2010: Member Joan Hluchan made a Motion to accept the Minutes as presented, Member Borgersen seconded the Motion; the Motion passed.

3. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

4. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: Councilmember Quinn reported that the Westvale Park Bond Ordinance is scheduled for a Final Hearing at the Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council on February 16, 2010. The project bids should go out by the end of this week. The bid package contains basic elements with options for additional items. The basic elements include field improvements, drainage, irrigation; field lighting, walkway lighting, playground and dog-run. The optional items include a restroom / storage / concession building and additional field lighting.

The Bergen County Freeholders will meet this month to determine the Grant of \$325,000.00 for the project. The final approval of that Grant should be approved by April 21. The Open Space Grant of \$500,000.00 is scheduled for determination by March 21.

The fields must be completed and seeded by October, 2010 for use by the spring of 2011.

Steve Boswell of Boswell Engineering has stated that a project manager would be on site for the entire renovation project.

Veterans Park Irrigation Project: Ms. Quinn reported that an inspection of the Park is scheduled for March 9 to review the irrigation and concrete improvements. The improvements will include new park benches and trash / recycling receptacles. The Final Reading of the Ordinance is scheduled for March 9.

Discussion followed on project scheduling and funding.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Basketball: Season playoffs will conclude the week of March 13. The program site changes implemented this season have been well received. Each grade league has been very successful.

b. Winter Program Update: All of the existing programs and new programs have been very successful.

c. Inclusive Recreation dance program – starts 3/10: The special needs dance program conducted by Recreation and the Broadway Bound Dance Program has exceeded all expectations. A number of

volunteers; adults and high school students; act as 'shadows' with the children. The children; aged 4-10 are fully participating and enjoying the program, the parents are very pleased.

One Westwood parent and one Twp of Washington parent are acting as Special Needs Program Coordinators, both with backgrounds in Special Education. As the program develops, Grants should be available for future funding.

- d. Egg Hunt: Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Director Buchheister has obtained the Huntington Learning Center as a sponsor. The suggestions from the 2009 Program will be implemented. All Board Members were asked to attend and assist in the Event. Special Events discussion followed.
- e. Spring Programs (registration begins 3/29/10): Everything is on schedule for the Spring Programs.
- f. Summer Programs: On-line registration will launch with the Summer Program at the beginning of May. Director Buchheister met earlier today with the Senior Staff of the Playground Program to discuss and implement staff changes; program planning, etc. A 15% registration increase is expected over the 2009 totals.  
Discussion followed on specific staff and program items.

Seven week-long camps will be held in August, following the end of the Playground Program.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Westvale Park Renovation: Previously addressed under Item 4.
- b. New Irrigation System for Veterans Park, Train Station and Library: Previously addressed under Item 4. Mr. Buchheister discussed the specifics of the project including new landscaping.

7. NEW BUSINESS: New Programs include an evening Women's Boot Camp, in Jake Voorhis Park which will utilize the lawn areas and the walking path. An evening class allows more women to participate and their children can use the park / playground while the women are in the class. A new youth Aviation Club will meet in the Community Center gym to build and fly balsa-wood planes. For the Fall, a youth Magic Program and other options are under review.

Adult Programs: The Men's Basketball Program has two evenings, over 30 and under 30. There are 29 men in the over 30 Program and 18 in the under 30 program.

Field Use: A number of non-resident youth and adult teams will be utilizing the fields at times not used by Westwood resident programs, using the new Fee Ordinance adopted by the Mayor and Council. The High School team may be using the fields, while the school fields are under renovation.

Member Bonkowski reported that Phil Mazza has requested the fields for the Memorial Day weekend Bergen County Charity Tournament. The Tournament will be scheduled on all of the Borough's fields.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:50 by Member Griffin, seconded by Member Borgersen. The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. in the Community Center.